

Current Affairs # 31 – The Kosmos, Part 1

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I have previously referenced the book of Daniel, chapter 7, that describes four beasts arising out of the sea. We have talked about and focused upon the fourth of these beasts before. Now I want to just go back and reiterate or restate this beast as we saw previously. This is from Daniel 7:7.

*“After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it [We have talked about the three previous ones.], and it had ten horns. I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words” (Daniel 7:7-8 NKJV, comments added in brackets).*

Then he speaks of how judgment is given to the saints against this beast, just like I was speaking about in the last broadcast. I just want to pause and read this one small bit, because it should remind you of the opening sequences in the book of Revelation, the fourth chapter, when Jesus is introduced to John in his vision in the book of Revelation. He said,

*“I was watching in the night visions,  
And behold, One like the Son of Man,  
Coming with the clouds of heaven!  
He came to the Ancient of Days,  
And they brought Him near before Him.  
Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,  
That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.  
His dominion is an everlasting dominion,  
Which shall not pass away,  
And His kingdom the one  
Which shall not be destroyed” (Daniel 7:13-14).*

That sounds very much like the song of praise to Jesus recorded in the book of Revelation, the fourth and fifth chapters, which says “Worthy is the Lamb to receive honor and glory and praise, because You died, and with Your blood You purchased men for God from every tribe, tongue, language, and nation, and made them a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” So, there is a striking parallel between this scene in Daniel and the scene that opens in heaven before John, in the fourth and fifth chapters of the book of Revelation. Daniel was obsessed (I do not think that is too strong a term) with this fourth beast that he saw, and he was grieved in his spirit. So we will go on.

*“I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. I came near to one of those who stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: ‘Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth. [So, four kingdoms and four kings. But the fifth Kingdom:] But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever’”* (Daniel 7:15-18, comments added in brackets)

This tracks perfectly what is said in the book of Hebrews, the twelfth chapter, which says (in the midst of the shaking), “But you have received a kingdom that cannot be shaken,” inasmuch as all these kingdoms shall be shaken. But he was obsessed, as I said, with the meaning of the fourth beast.

*“Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different [Note that: it was different] from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet; and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows.*

*“I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.*

*“Thus he said: [He gave the interpretation:]*

*‘The fourth beast shall be  
A fourth kingdom on earth,  
Which shall be different from all other kingdoms,  
And shall devour the whole earth, [The word “devour” is about exercising hegemony; it  
will dominate, devour the whole earth.]  
Trample it and break it in pieces.  
The ten horns are ten kings  
Who shall arise from this kingdom.  
And another shall rise after them;  
He shall be different from the first ones,  
And shall subdue three kings.  
He shall speak pompous words against the Most High,  
Shall persecute the saints of the Most High,  
And shall intend to change times and law.  
Then the saints shall be given into his hand  
For a time and times and half a time.*

*‘But the court shall be seated,  
And they shall take away his dominion,  
To consume and destroy it forever.  
Then the kingdom and dominion,  
And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven,  
Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High.  
His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.’*

*“This is the end of the account. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly troubled me, and my countenance changed; but I kept the matter in my heart”* (Daniel 7:19-28, comments added in brackets).

One thing that I want to point out here about this kingdom—I want to point out a couple of things. It does not say that this *kingdom* wages war against the saints. Who wages war against the saints using this kingdom? Ah, that is the difference, you see. The kingdom itself has an hegemony over the whole earth. This is very important because of what I am about to reveal to you about the nature of this kingdom. Because there is a lot of talk about creating alternative financial and social systems and the like, and many are already proposing what those systems might look like. It is part of the intent to spread terror, because of an inexact reading of the Scriptures.

It says in verse 21, of Daniel 7, “I was watching; and the same **horn** was waging war against the saints...”—the saints being God’s interest in the earth, the people of God. It is the *horn* that is waging war against the saints and prevailing against them. Keep in mind, and I am keeping in mind, there is a reference to this person in the New Testament; he is referred to as the prince of the power of the air, whose power is that of deception. In other words, the power of the air is sound, the way that you make sounds, a message. That message, in its content, is referred to as the conveying of lies and deception that will have the ability to deceive those who do not love the truth. If it were possible, these sounds, made by this horn that is speaking perversities in an environment that utilizes the power of this kingdom that has global hegemony, will deceive those who do not love the truth.

It is clear that the power of this kingdom will affect every aspect of human life. But there is a spokesman, there is a message, frankly, that attempts to utilize the environments of this kingdom for the purpose of conveying a message of terror and subjugation. So, be extremely careful. Do not be deceived. When Jesus was speaking about this particular phenomenon (in Matthew 24, and again in Mark 13, in Luke 21), He said, “Many false christs will arise who will claim legitimacy in My name, and they will deceive many.”<sup>1</sup> Why? Because they will use the circumstances that exist to promote fear in the people in the name of Christ. In which case, they will not be speaking for Christ; they will be speaking in furtherance of their own interests. It goes on to say in the same

passage in Matthew, Mark, and Luke that I have referenced, that many false prophets shall arise and shall deceive many.<sup>2</sup>

Now, why are people deceived? According to 2 Thessalonians, they are deceived because they do not love the truth.<sup>3</sup> And according to 2 Timothy, people are deceived because they have itching ears, and they have prevailing lusts, and they are looking for and listening for sounds that agree with what they lust for.<sup>4</sup> These are the ones who are subject to deception. Jesus described the same type of person in His time as “seeing and not seeing, hearing and not hearing.”<sup>5</sup> What is the condition of a person who see but does not see, who hears but does not hear? It is someone who wants to hear only what he wants to hear, and someone who wants to see only what he wants to see. And beside that, he will see nothing or hear nothing. So people are deceived by this voice that speaks blasphemous things, supported by the existing conditions in the world among mankind at that time. In this kingdom that I am about to describe to you, the message of this kingdom, to all but those who have ears to hear and eyes to see, will be a deceptive message.

So watch for people in this time whose messages are rooted in fear, in escapism, in self-provision, and in methodologies for surviving that do not require you to submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ as one who is a subject of His Kingdom. These are the templates that you should use to decide whether this plethora of prophetic messages, everyone giving these messages claiming to be a prophet, these are the four measures by which you should judge these things.

1. Do they promote fear?
2. Do they rely on what *you* can do?
3. Do they require you to submit to the sovereignty of Christ?
4. Or, is it still about the sweat of your brow—what you can do in conjunction with others to save yourself?

If these messages all have that taste and sound to them, reject them, because they are not from God. Because they do not promote what God is promoting, which is the utilization of these times to bring a people to maturity, suddenly.

Daniel talks about how the horn was waging war against the saints. And then it goes on, and again he talks about it, where he says in verse 24, (This is when he is giving the interpretation. Before, he just referenced that the horn was waging war against the saints.)

*The ten horns are ten kings  
Who shall arise from this kingdom.  
And another shall rise after them; [So there is a sequence of the arising.]  
He shall be different from the first ones,  
And shall subdue three kings.  
He [this horn, this king] shall speak pompous words against the Most High,  
Shall persecute the saints of the Most High,  
And shall intend to change times and law.  
Then the saints shall be given into his hand  
For a time and times and half a time (Daniel 7:24-25, comments added in brackets).*

Again, I am making the distinction that I think to be critically important in light of what I want to talk about this kingdom as being, and that is: it is the *message* that comes at this time that is oppressive to the saints. It is the message that wages war against the saints. It is the one who speaks this message. Now, you will see the same reference in the book of Revelation, the thirteenth chapter. There is a striking resemblance in this reading to the book of Daniel, even to the point of the sea. Revelation 13:1,

*Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name (Revelation 13:1 NKJV).*

- First, the word “sea” here is a metaphorical reference to the sea of humanity. There are multiple usages and references to the word “sea.” One of them, and it is a different Greek word altogether, is a reference to sea, as people understand the ocean and the seas. Another reference is, again, to the sea of humanity; this one is subject to that interpretation, as in the sea of humanity.

- Out of the sea a beast arises: “I saw a beast rising up, having seven heads.” This a detail that Daniel did not have. Daniel said this beast had ten horns; this one says it had seven heads and ten horns. So the number of the horns is still the same, but now we know that these ten horns sit on seven heads.
- “and on his horns ten crowns”—That would signify ten rulers.
- “and on his heads a blasphemous name”

*Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion (Revelation 13:2a).*

You will remember that in Daniel’s reference, the first beast he saw was like a lion, the middle beast he saw was like a bear, and the third beast he saw was like a leopard. John’s vision is the reverse: a leopard, a bear, and a lion. That is because, in Daniel’s time, he is looking prospectively into history, and the nearest beast to him in the chronology of the events is a lion—the nearest kingdom of a predatory nature is a lion. Further in time from Daniel’s point in history is the bear. And furthest away from him and closest to the beast is the leopard. Now Daniel has spoken, and John, when he recalls this vision, he sees them in the reverse. Because the one closest to where he is standing in history is the leopard; further back and closer to Daniel is the bear; and closest back to Daniel, but furthest back from John, is the lion.

So that tells us something. It tells us that three of these predecessors have already occurred, which is my point. My point is to suggest that *every* fulfillment of prophetic Scripture is the *only* fulfillment of prophetic Scripture is nonsense. Because here you have three successors, each of which is a predatory type—a type of kingdom that is predatory—so as between John in the New Testament and Daniel in the Old Testament, three predatory kingdoms had already arisen. What is happening here? A momentum is being built in human culture for the emergence of this final beast. Now the rollout of this beast begins in the time of Jesus and John, but to suggest that it has culminated, and therefore we do not have to be concerned about it because it is now an historical fact, is to simply *not* understand the nature of this beast. You notice that there were prior kings to it, and subsequent kings. So it is an historically progressing kingdom, which will reach its culmination in the end of the age.

But what is it? Before we come to it, we must understand, again, that its purpose is to compete with the saints, to have a competing message with the saints, and to oppress humanity to force them into an alignment with the philosophy of this kingdom. Now we have immediately assumed that every aspect of this kingdom results in death and bloodshed. Not necessarily so. What is the most valuable aspect of any kingdom? Its citizens. This kingdom has a goal of attracting the widest number, the largest possible number, of subjects. To kill everybody is counterproductive. It is not what kingdoms do. In war kingdoms will overcome and kill certain of the subjects of another kingdom, but the goal always is to subjugate, not necessarily to destroy, and destroys only that which is necessary to establish its hegemony. This kingdom is no different in that regard. The focus of the conflict of kingdoms is in the messaging, because the messaging holds the key to the culture of each kingdom.

Here, at the very end of this broadcast, I want to use the word that describes this kingdom, and then we will proceed to dive into it. The word that describes this kingdom in the Scriptures is the word *kosmos* (Strong's Greek 2889). John speaks about it. He says, "Do not love the *kosmos*" — "Do not love the world or the things of the world. Whoever loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (cf. 1 John 2:15). The *kosmos*, in historic reference in the Greek, is referred to as an adornment or an arrangement, and the implication is of systems on which human life relies and depends. I want to unpack that word, *kosmos*, and I specifically want to focus on the one who originated it, the *kosmokratōr* (Strong's Greek 2888), the god of this world. For we are told not to love this world. It is not a reference to geography, not a reference to humanity — "For God so loved the world" (cf. John 3:16) — but it is a reference to a particular type of kingdom that has in mind to subjugate all mankind by deception.

Let's get into that in the next session. I will talk to you then. Bye-bye.

Endnotes:

1. See Matthew 24:5 NKJV: "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many."; see also Matthew 24:23-24 NKJV: "Then if anyone says to you,

‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”

2. See Matthew 24:11 NKJV: “Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.”
3. See 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 NKJV: “The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”
4. See 2 Timothy 4:3-4 NKJV: “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”
5. See Matthew 13:13 NIV: “This is why I speak to them in parables: ‘Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.’”